"Something one can understand. Say, a notebook with addresses, a cipher code. . . . Or a lab, a bomb. . . ."

They found nothing "logical" but, when the search was over and the bottles were emptied, the officer handed me, with a deep sigh, a warrant to be taken into custody regardless of the result of the search. I was escorted to a precinct detention house, where I found about forty persons who had been arrested the same evening at the headquarters of the S-D group. There were no soldiers among them; the police had raided the headquarters half an hour after the soldiers had left, but we were sure that the raid was connected with the soldiers' visit. The police had not found their petition but knew of its existence. Much later we learned that Sapotnitsky was under secret observation, and that a spy—allegedly also a University student—had been planted in the rooming house where he lived. This spy stole the draft of the petition from Sapotnitsky's desk, copied it, and took the copy to his superiors.

The plan of the police to catch the deputies red-handed with soldiers in their headquarters failed because of an error in the timing of the raid. The Duma protested against the raid. Stolypin answered with an order to search the headquarters and seize the files of the S-D group and its individual members. The Duma protested again, but the government contemptuously rejected the protest.

STOLYPIN'S COUP

The petition of the S-D military organization to the Duma was, of course, an illegal act from the point of view of military discipline, but it involved no responsibility on the part of the Duma or its S-D group. The soldiers' deputation got no farther than the receptionist's table at the entrance of the group's headquarters. Fearing a police trap, the members of the Duma who happened to be there asked the soldiers to leave at once. Other deputies neither saw them nor heard of their arrival. Yet Stolypin used this incident as a pretext for getting rid of the Duma. On June 1, he presented it with an ultimatum: Strip fifty-five members of the S-D group of parliamentary immunity.

The S-D group demanded that the Duma answer the government's attempt to maim it by appealing to the people. But the Cadets still tried to spare the Duma. A parliamentary committee was appointed to check the charges against the fifty-five deputies. The committee decided to reject Stolypin's ultimatum but asked for time to complete its report.

Tseretelli spoke before the Duma in the name of the S-D and